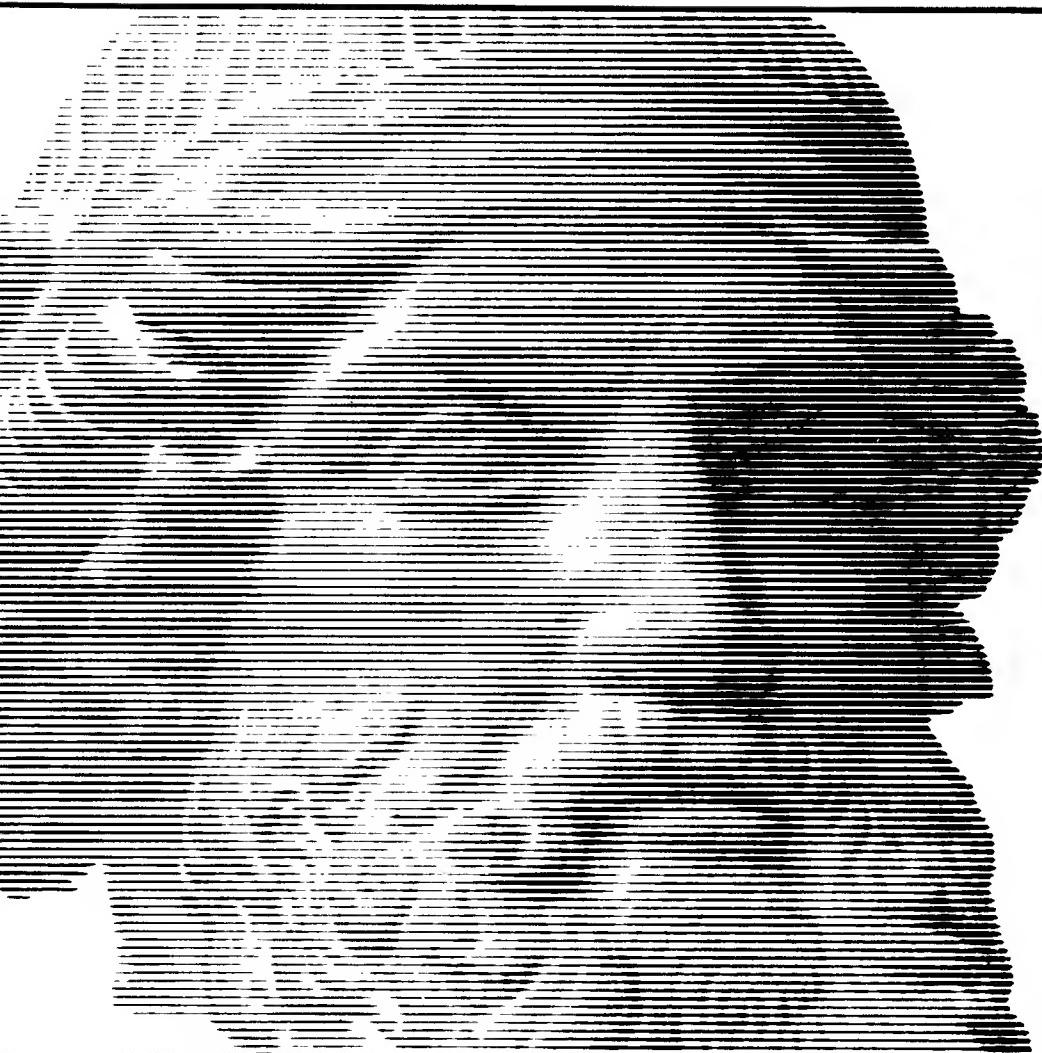


Educational Courseware



Decimals

Practice

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Practice

PLATO®
Educational Courseware

Adapted from:
Decimal Darts
A lesson originally created in 1974,
by Sharon Dugdale, David Kibbey,
and Helen Leung.
while at the University of Illinois.

Credits

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Introduction

Decimals Practice is a Control Data PLATO educational courseware package. The computer activity is called PLATO Decimal Darts. It is available for use on Apple II* Plus, Apple IIe, ATARI** 800, and TI*** 99/4A microcomputers.

Decimal Darts is designed to be an educationally sound learning tool that increases your ability to perceive and identify fractional distances using decimal numbers. It provides practice in using decimal numbers to locate points on a number line. A dart game format with balloons as targets is used. To break a balloon, you must estimate its location on a number line.

The Decimal Darts activity is intended to help you improve your skills with decimal numbers in the following areas:

- Decimal differentiation and identification
- Visual determination of decimal fractions

The Decimal Darts activity helps you identify the following:

- Decimal fractions between whole numbers
- Decimal fractions between decimals
- Positive and negative decimal fractions

*Apple II is a trademark of Apple Computer, Incorporated.

**ATARI is a trademark of Atari, Incorporated.

***TI is a trademark of Texas Instruments, Incorporated.

Lesson Flow

When the activity begins, you must respond to the following two preliminary questions generated by the computer:

1. Which part do you want?

- a. Part 1
- b. Part 2

Select the desired lesson option and enter it.

2. Do you want to include negative numbers?

Enter Y (yes) or N (no).

The negative numbers feature requires that you identify decimal decrements as well as increments between given points.

Part 1

Part 1 of the Decimal Darts game contains eight levels of exercises. At the beginning of each exercise, a vertical number line appears on the right side of the screen with given points at equal intervals along the line. The end points and any numbers along the line are integers.

Balloons are tied to the line at random locations. The location of each balloon can be identified by a decimal number on the number line. A message appears telling you to shoot a dart.

Study the intervals and estimate the location of a balloon. To shoot a dart at a balloon, type and enter the estimated decimal location of the balloon. A dart appears on the left side of the screen and moves toward the number line. When the dart hits the line, it remains stuck to the line and its decimal location appears to the right of the number line.

If your estimate is correct, the dart hits a balloon and the balloon pops.

If a number is entered that is not between the end points of the line, a message appears telling you that the number entered is off the line. The computer will not accept nonnumeric entries.

When you have broken all of the balloons, the next exercise appears. Depending on your performance on the previous exercise, the level will either be raised, lowered, or remain the same. The higher the level, the more difficult the exercise. Succeeding levels may have smaller balloons and/or require more precise estimation.

When you successfully complete the eighth level, the computer displays a message of congratulations. The option to continue to play is also offered. If you select the option to continue, the computer continues to provide extra games at the higher levels of difficulty until you exit the lesson.

If you are having trouble, there is a help option available. When you enter the help option, a dart will be shot at the line and the fractional name of the location will appear. For example: 0.25 is a name for $25/100$. You may use the help option a limited number of times in an exercise. If you continue to ask for help, a message appears encouraging you to try to shoot some darts.

Part 2

The format for Part 2 of Decimal Darts is the same as for Part 1. Part 2, however, contains 10 levels and the end points of the number line are decimal numbers.

Your progress through the Decimal Darts activity is reflected in the level of difficulty achieved.

Distribution Information

Control Data Publishing Company, Inc. publishes quality courseware packages to supplement and support a variety of subject matter areas.

For additional information on this and other PLATO educational courseware, please write to:

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or

**Call Toll Free:
800/233-3784**

**In California, call:
800/233-3785**

Notes

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Other lessons are also available in these subject areas:

- Computer Literacy
- Foreign Languages
- Life Coping Skills